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NOV. 25, 1996

TV's 'Moesha' Gives Positive
View Of Black Family Life

William Allen Young

**Why
Discrimination
Is Detrimental
To The Health
Of Blacks**

Brandy Norwood

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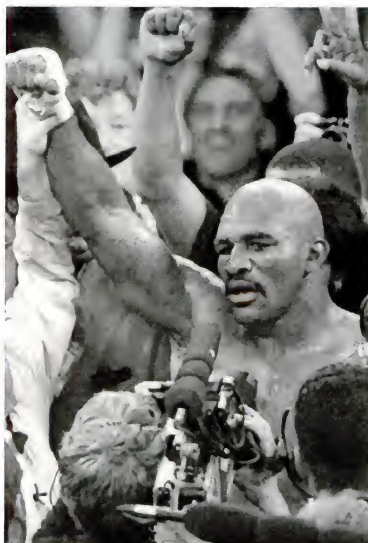
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Evander Holyfield raises his fist in triumph after scoring an 11th-round TKO of **Mike Tyson** to capture the World Boxing Association championship on **Page 51**.

Cover photo courtesy UPN/1996.

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JET is published weekly: U.S.A. one year \$38.00; Canada, Pan America \$44.00; foreign \$48.00 by Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., 820 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605. Payable in U.S. currency only. Second class postage paid at Corinth, MS, and additional offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to JET, 820 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605.

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Black Caucus Members Keep Their Strength In House In 1996 Election

Like President Clinton who'll keep his seat in the White House, Black incumbents in Congress will keep theirs as well.

For what he said would be his final campaign, President Clinton racked up 379 electoral votes and 49 percent of the popular vote compared to the losing Sen. Bob Dole, who netted only 159 electoral votes and 41 percent of the popular vote.

Black incumbents, with few exceptions, held on to their seats in Congress nationwide.

Highlights of the victorious congressional sweep for Blacks include the re-election of Georgia Rep. Cynthia McKinney, the elections of newcomer Julia Carson to Indiana's 10th District, Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick,



◀ *President Bill Clinton holds up his hands in victory with Vice-President Al Gore while First Lady Hillary Clinton applauds in the background.*

gressional District.

"They said I was the candidate no one wanted," McKinney said. "Why don't they just admit that I won fair and square?"

In all, 12 Black women, the highest total ever, will sit in Congress next year.

Pairs of Black women now represent the states of Florida, Corrine Brown and Carrie Meek; California, Maxine Waters and Millender-McDonald; and Texas, Eddie Bernice Johnson and Sheila Jackson Lee.

Rep. Gary Franks of Connecticut was the only Black GOPer who lost his seat in Congress. He was one of

who earlier defeated Barbara-Rose Collins in the Michigan primary in Detroit's 15th District, and California Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald, who first won a special election in March to succeed ex-Rep Walter Tucker, III in the 37th Congressional District.

McKinney, who now bills herself as "the first Black woman elected from a majority-White district in the South," was believed to be on a losing track after the districts in the state were redrawn.

But the 41-year-old former college professor shifted her campaign to include the majority White constituents and surprised politicians by taking the lead in polls.

Rep. McKinney picked up 67 percent of the vote in Georgia's 4th Con-

▶ *Dancing the macarena after her victory, Rep. Cynthia McKinney was re-elected to Georgia's 4th Congressional District.*



This One



FWAR-Y7A-ECWG



▲ Congresswoman Julia Carson enjoys her victory speech after winning Indiana's 10th Congressional District seat. Rep. J.C. Watts, standing at the door of his Norman, OK, polling place, was the only Black Republican to keep his seat.

two Black Republican lawmakers in the House. His defeat leaves only Oklahoma Rep. J.C. Watts in the majority ranks. Though Franks had joined the Black Caucus, Watts had not.

Another newcomer to the Hill will be Tennessee Rep. Harold Ford, Jr., the son of a lawmaker who became

an expert on government social welfare programs. A University of Michigan law school graduate, the 26-year-old son of retired Rep. Harold Ford Sr. is one of the House's youngest members. His election marks the first time a son has succeeded a father in Black Caucus history.

Another prominent father-son com-

▼ Rep. Harold Ford Jr. makes a victory speech in Memphis after winning Tennessee's 9th Congressional District seat that his father, Harold Ford Sr., retired from, marking the first time a son has succeeded a father in Congressional Black Caucus history.





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▲ *Elijah Cummings of Maryland's 7th District, who holds the former seat of NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, celebrates his re-election at a Maryland Democratic Party celebration. Congressman Sanford Bishop from Georgia's 2nd District watches election returns at his Albany, GA, headquarters while holding 5-year-old Debi McLendon.*

bination features Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr., who in Chicago represents Illinois' 2nd Congressional District, and his father, though not a congressman, has returned his headquarters from the nation's capital back to the Windy City. Jackson Jr. is 31 and already considered one of the talented Caucus members.

Other newcomers are Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings, who also earlier won a special election to complete ex-Rep. Kweisi Mfume's term, and Illinois Rep. Danny Davis, who replaces retiring Rep. Cardiss Collins in the 7th Congressional District in Chicago.

The only Black in the U.S. Senate, Illinois Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, was not up for re-election. And former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt failed in his second attempt to defeat five-term North Carolina Sen.

Jesse Helms.

Democrats credited the far-reaching travels of PUSH's Jesse Jackson, the intensive voter campaign of the Black Congress on Health, Law and Economics, and the coast-to-coast effort of the Congressional Black Caucus for their achievements.

There will be 39 Blacks in the 105th Congress—38 Democrats and 1 Republican.

Nevertheless, the Black Caucus' numbers still are great enough for the body to be particularly important during the coming critical House sessions.

The Black Caucus already has begun to prepare lists of possible appointees to the new Clinton team as well as to develop their legislative program. Foremost is consideration of the administration's job and employment programs.

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HBO

NOVEMBER 23, 8PM ET/PT

TICKER TAPE

by Simeon Booker, Washington Bureau Chief

Confidential: When the Democrats failed to regain control of Congress in the sweeping **Bill Clinton** re-election, loyal Black lawmakers saw their hopes for the brightest political chapter wiped away right before their eyes. Thousands of dollars in staff salaries along with significant new roles in the president's second term evaporated for four Black lawmakers (**John Conyers**, **Ron Dellums**, **Charles Rangel** and **William Clay**). They were scheduled to become chairmen of major committees, the high point in decades of Capitol Hill activities. Now the only Black eligible to preside over the sessions will be GOP Rep. **J. C. Watts** of Oklahoma...No matter how much the news media plays up retired Gen. **Colin Powell** as a possibility for future national GOP tickets, the stark fact exists that the Dole-Kemp team deliberately wrote off Black voters in the recent election and that marks the first time in re-

cent years that Black votes have not been sought by both parties. Little GOP effort was made to seek Black support, and advertising in the Black press was eliminated... While Clinton regulars skirmish over which of the Blacks will hold White House posts during the next four-year term, the real "in" position to gain notoriety and win a following is the chairmanship of the Congressional Black Caucus. Vying in the race to succeed Rep. **Donald Payne** are California's **Maxine Waters** and Southerners **Bill Jefferson** and **Alcee Hastings**. With the rest of Black leadership hardly able to move, the caucus, with a news media base in the nation's capital and the ability to hold hearings around the country, possesses just the machinery to launch the next Black leader...A run-off election will decide the election winner between incumbent Virgin Isle lawmaker **Victor Fraser** and physician **Donna Green**.

National Headliners

Husband-and-wife entertainers **Tim Reid** and **Daphne Maxwell Reid** announced plans to build an \$11 million movie studio in Petersburg, touching off a mini business boom in the Virginia countryside by mid-1997...New Book—**Brooke Stephens'** *Talking Dollars and Making Sense*, a wealth-building guide for African-Americans...Lt. Gen. **Joe N. Ballard**, a civil engineer and previous commander of the service's largest engineer brigade, is the Army's newest chief of engineers. **Viola Thomas** was elected the first Black mayor of Fairfield in New Jersey's Cumberland County.



J. C. Watts



Donald Payne

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Texaco Chairman Apologizes For Executives Who Allegedly Referred To Black Employees As 'Niggers' And 'Black Jelly Beans'



▲ *Texaco Chairman and CEO Peter I. Bijur publicly apologizes at a news conference in New York for alleged racist statements made by several top executives.*

The chairman of Texaco Inc. recently apologized publicly for top executives who allegedly referred to Black employees as “niggers” and “black jelly beans” during company meetings and said he has suspended two of them who still work for the company.

At JET press time, the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. threatened to organize a boycott of Texaco. “Unless they have a definite plan, they’re facing a

major boycott,” Jackson said. NAACP President Kweisi Mfume has asked the Justice Department and the FBI to investigate possible criminal or civil rights violations against Texaco.

Texaco Chairman and CEO Peter I. Bijur also confirmed that the oil company, headquartered in White Plains, NY, has received subpoenas from a federal grand jury investigating whether the executives destroyed documents on minority hiring.

“I want to offer an apology to our fellow employees who were rightly offended by these statements...and to people throughout the world,” Bijur said at a news conference in New York. He also outlined a series of steps to review company policies on discrimination and to educate workers better.

Bijur suspended the two executives who had attended the meetings and are still employed at the company—Peter Meade, assistant general manager of Texaco’s fuel and marine marketing division, and J. David Keough, chief financial officer of a Texaco subsidiary, Heddington Insurance.

The two men were suspended with pay, pending the outcome of a company investigation.

Bijur also said that some retirement benefits for another execu-

tive, Richard Lundwall, and a fourth man, retired Texaco executive Robert Ulrich, had been suspended and likely would be withdrawn.

The alleged racist comments were recorded in 1994 by an executive, Richard Lundwall, who attended meetings of the company's finance department. After Lundwall's position was eliminated because of downsizing at Texaco, he turned the tapes over to a lawyer who is representing Black employees who have filed suit against Texaco for race discrimination.

Lundwall and the other White top executives at the meetings allegedly referred to Black employees as "niggers" and "black jelly beans," mocked Kwanzaa and Hanukkah celebrations and discussed destroying company documents on minority hiring, according to court papers in the 1994 class-action discrimination brought on behalf of 1,500 Black Texaco workers. The \$540 million lawsuit alleges that Black employees were denied promotions and advancement opportunities because of their race.

Lundwall said he taped the meetings without his colleagues' knowledge. He said he wanted to make sure the minutes he kept were accurate.

Lundwall said the subject of the meetings was "what can we do to enhance Texaco's position in minority representation at higher position grades, managers and supervisory levels."

At one meeting, Robert Ulrich, Texaco's treasurer, was allegedly

heard on the tape saying: "This diversity thing, you know how Black jelly beans agree." And Lundwall allegedly responds: "That's funny. All the black jelly beans seem to be glued to the bottom of the bag."

Apparently referring to a Kwanzaa celebration of Black culture, Ulrich allegedly says: "I'm still having trouble with Hanukkah. Now, we have Kwanzaa....(Expletive) niggers, they (expletive) all over us with this."

Discussing a collection of documents on minority hiring, Ulrich allegedly said on the tapes: "There is no point in even keeping the restricted version anymore. All it could do is get us in trouble."

To which Lundwall allegedly replies: "Let me shred this thing and any other restricted version like it."

Another Texaco employee, J. David Keough, looks at a chart of women and minorities, and allegedly says on the tape: "If we can't explain this thing, I mean, it shouldn't be in there....If it was a favorable chart, you'd want to retain it."

Later Ulrich allegedly says, "We're going to purge the (expletive) out of these books, though. We're not going to have any damn thing that ...we don't need to be in them."

The scandal has caused Texaco's stock to drop \$6.1 million in value, according to news reports.

H. Carl McCall, New York State Comptroller and a Texaco shareholder, has asked the company for a full account of the matter.

The Leadership Conference Of Civil Rights has requested that the federal government join the discrimination lawsuit against Texaco.

At JET press time, the New York Times reported that investigators hired by Texaco said a study of a tape recording found that Ulrich did not use the word "niggers." The investigators said Ulrich used the word "Nicholas." The word "Nicholas" was used in a discussion in

which Ulrich complained that "they" had soiled St. Nicholas, after expressing discomfort with Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, the Times article said.

The Texaco investigation also found that the reference to "black jelly beans" was part of an analogy taught in a diversity program—where jelly beans are used as a reference for different races, the Times article said.

Army Suspends 20 Soldiers Implicated In Maryland Base Sex Scandal

The U.S. Army recently suspended 20 soldiers at Maryland's Aberdeen Proving Ground while authorities investigate charges which range from verbal abuse to sexual assault by at least 19 women.

Investigators at Aberdeen, a school and Ordnance Center just 28 miles northeast of Baltimore, said they are studying reports of sexual harassment. Investigators are reviewing complaints made by the women that include incidents of sodomy and rape as well.

The scope of the investigation is broadening as new complaints are being phoned in on the Army's toll-free hotline, which began operation after the first five men, instructors at the school, were charged.

Three of the first five men face criminal charges. Among them, a drill sergeant in a Marine Corps brig at Quantico, VA, for allegedly threatening one of his victims. Two

others face lesser charges.

The one officer charged in the probe, Capt. Derrick Robertson, faces allegations that include rape. Robertson, who is Black, has admitted that he had an improper sexual relationship with a recruit but adds it was consensual.

But Army officials were quick to point out that consensual sex between officers and recruits is in violation of military law.

About 11,000 soldiers annually are brought to Aberdeen Proving Ground. An average of 2,103 soldiers learn to maintain and repair equipment ranging from tanks to generators daily. About 1,367 of those soldiers are trainees and roughly 20 percent of the trainees are women.

"This is just an investigation," explained Ed Starnes, the school's chief spokesman in the Los Angeles Times. "It just means that at least one person did something wrong."

Why Discrimination Is Detrimental To The Health Of Blacks

Blacks who experience discrimination may find that their health could be at risk, experts reveal.

Experts interviewed by JET noted that discrimination is a major detriment to Black Americans' health because it creates stress which leads to a number of health problems, which include high blood pressure, heart attacks, strokes, kidney failure and depression.

A recent study by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston and the Kaiser Foundation Research Institute of Oakland,

▼*Dr. Nancy Krieger is the lead author of a recent Harvard study that found a link between racial discrimination and high blood pressure.*



▲*Dr. Deborah Williams, director of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Howard University Hospital, says discrimination in the workplace can lead to high blood pressure.*

CA, linked experiences of racial discrimination and unfair treatment with high blood pressure.

The study also found that Blacks get hypertension one-third more often than Whites, get it earlier in life and suffer more serious health consequences. High blood pressure can trigger strokes, heart attacks and kidney failure, the experts say.

Blacks who accept unfair treatment by Whites had a higher rate of high blood pressure than Blacks who challenged discrimination, the study also says.

Stress caused by racial discrimi-



▲ Dr. Lawrence E. Gary, professor of social work at Howard University, says prolonged stress can lead to exhaustion, anxiety and high blood pressure.

nation plays a role “in shaping cardiovascular response and contributing to elevated blood pressure,” says Dr. Nancy Krieger, lead author of the study and assistant professor at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Deborah Williams, assistant professor of medicine and director of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C., explains, “Stress can cause an elevation of blood pressure. There may be prejudice, recognized or unrecognized. The unrecognized racism may be more of a stress than even recognized racism.”

She cited an example of how discrimination in the workplace can

affect one's health: “We've had people coming in with all the degrees and they are not making the kind of progress they should based on their qualifications, but they are seeing their White counterparts rise up in the ranks. We check their blood pressure and find it is higher than normal.”

Dr. Lawrence E. Gary, professor of social work at Howard University, notes that when one is faced with discrimination, it causes “chemical reactions in the body to produce energy to respond to this stress in the body. Prolonged stress

▼ Dr. Robert M. Mayberry, director of Morehouse Medical Treatment Effectiveness Center at the Morehouse School of Medicine, notes that people who live in cities experience more stress which can lead to health problems than those who live in rural areas.





▲ *Dr. Frederick Phillips, president of the National Association of Black Psychologists, notes that some Blacks internalize the stress and anger caused by racial discrimination, which can affect their health.*

can lead to exhaustion and anxiety, and this will elevate one's blood pressure."

Dr. Robert M. Mayberry, director of Morehouse Medical Treatment Effectiveness Center at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, notes, "Hypertension can be determined by environmental factors. Racism and stress are environmental factors. People who live in cities have more stress than people who live in rural areas."

Dr. Frederick Phillips, president of the National Association of Black Psychologists headquartered in Washington, D.C., finds that some Blacks internalize the stress caused

by discrimination, which will affect their health. "Our ranges of response are limited. We tend to suppress and internalize the anger.

"It is a suppression and internalization of our anger that contributes to stress," Dr. Phillips points out. "We are at war with ourselves psychologically and internally and that contributes to hypertension. We simply hold in, that is what hypertension is, tension that is held in. We don't allow ourselves appropriate responses."

The Harvard study of 4,086 people aged 18 to 30 found differences between Black men and women and between professional and working-class Blacks.

Black professionals had the lowest blood pressure if they faced little or no discrimination and challenged unfair treatment by Whites.

Working-class Blacks had higher rates of blood pressure than professionals. The highest levels of blood pressure were found in working-class Black women who "accepted unfair treatment as a way of life" and among working-class Black men who accepted unfair treatment but talked to others.

Economics plays a key role in why working-class Black women have the highest level of blood pressure. They often do not get enough exercise, which reduces blood pressure. Many cannot afford to exercise at a health club, and the inner-city streets are not safe for walking for exercise, Dr. Williams notes. Many working-

class Black women often cannot afford the proper healthy foods that can curb high blood pressure.

Experiencing discrimination by being denied opportunities can also cause depression, the experts note.

"Emotions do play a part in a lot of

diseases, but we just don't have large enough studies to say what their full impact will be," notes Dr. Williams. "But we all grow up and want to do better; when you find that the world is not open, that there are ceilings, that becomes a major stressor."

CENSUS

Jazz-Rock Pioneer Eddie Harris, 62, Succumbs

Jazz tenor saxophonist-vocalist Eddie Harris recently died of congestive heart failure at the University of Southern California Medical Center in Los Angeles. He was 62.



Eddie Harris

Harris, who had bone cancer and kidney disease, recently had been diagnosed with amyloidosis, an uncommon disease that infects vital organs and tissue.

The late musician was a pioneer of jazz-rock fusion, and he was a master of soul-jazz. Harris invented an electric sax and the "saxobone," a

saxophone with a trombone mouthpiece.

An author of several books of music theory including *How To Play Reed Trumpet* and *The Intervallic Concept For All Single Line Instruments*, Harris recorded the million-selling hit, *Exodus*, which was the main theme from the film by the same name, in 1961. He also recorded top songs such as *Listen Here, Is It In* and *Freedom Jazz Dance*. Harris recorded live the 1970 hit *Compared To What*, along with pianist Les McCann, at the Montreux Jazz Festival. It was in the early '70s that Harris also wrote a great majority of the music for "The Bill Cosby Show," which ran from 1969 to 1971.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Sara, and two daughters, Yvonne and Lolita.

Died:

Allen E. Broussard, 67, a former California Supreme Court Justice who wrote key opinions on the death penalty and environment, after a

brief illness at his home in Oakland, CA. Broussard was the first Black president of the Conference of California Judges, more recently known as the California Judges Association.

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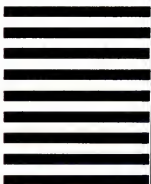
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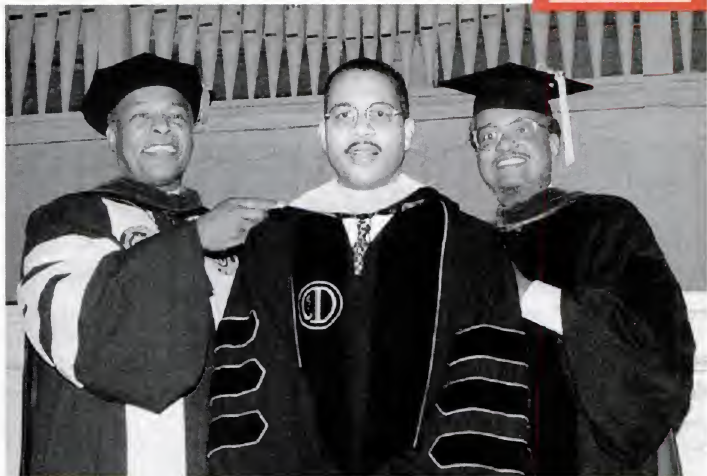
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▲ **DOCTOR OF SCIENCE:** An elated Dr. Reed Vaughn Tuckson (c), president of the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles, receives an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Dr. Louis W. Sullivan (l), president of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, and Dr. E. Nigel Harris, dean and senior vice president for academic affairs at the medical school, during recent ceremonies at the Morehouse School of Medicine.

President Clinton Signs Bill Giving \$29 Million To Restore Buildings At Black Colleges

President Clinton recently signed a bill that provides \$29 million to restore buildings at 12 historically Black colleges, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported.

Fisk University in Nashville, TN, and Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, MS, will receive the most money—\$5 million and \$3 million, respectively. Other schools to receive funds are: Claflin College in Orangeburg, SC, \$1 million; Concordia College in

Selma, AL, \$200,000; Knoxville College in Knoxville, TN, \$2.5 million; Miles College in Birmingham, AL, \$2 million; Rust College in Holly Springs, MS, \$1 million; Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL, \$250,000; Talladega College in Talledega, AL, \$1.5 million; Voorhees College in Denmark, SC, \$2 million; Allen University in Columbia, SC, \$2.9 million; and Selma University in Selma, AL, \$1.6 million.



During pact-signing ceremony in Philadelphia, Rev. Leon Sullivan is greeted by UNESCO Director General Dr. Federico Mayor.

Rev. Leon Sullivan Returns To Africa To Foster Relations Between U.S. Blacks And Continent

In a major comeback of Black Americans to the African continent, Rev. Leon H. Sullivan agreed to return to Africa with three of his so-called "super groups" to work with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

At a spirited ceremony in Philadelphia's Independence Mall, the noted minister, who years before harnessed U.S. companies that did business in South Africa to wipe out apartheid there, pledged that he would use the

combined resources of his organizations to help the international order "build a culture of peace" in Africa.

Those organizations are the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help, Opportunities Industrialization Centers, Inc. and the African-American Summit.

More than 300 guests, including Philadelphia Mayor Edward Rendell, several African envoys and local officials, watched as Rev. Sullivan and Dr. Federico Mayor, the UNESCO



President Clinton to return the U. S. to the UNESCO fold next year. The U. S. has been absent from the group since 1984 when the Reagan administration objected to UNESCO's effort to control news on a worldwide basis.

Waging an effort to influence the Clinton officials to rejoin UNESCO, Rev. Sullivan has called for repairing the devastation of African cultural institutions. The director general called the pact signing "the beginning of a new day in Africa."

◀ *As a host of local dignitaries look on, Rev. Leon H. Sullivan and Dr. Federico Mayor sign pact which Dr. Mayor says will be "the beginning of a new day in Africa."*

director general, signed the agreement.

Sullivan said he hopes to bridge the gap between Black Americans and Africans through educational exchanges and the creation of UNESCO university chairs throughout the continent.

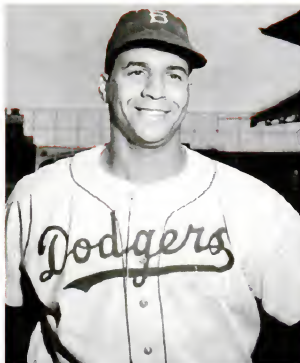
A former minister of education for Spain, Dr. Mayor told the audience that he expected



▶ *A group of Philadelphia school children, adorned in festive African dress, welcomes Rev. Sullivan during the ceremony at Philadelphia's Independence Mall.*

This Week In Black History

November 19, 1921—



◀ **Roy Campanella**, famed baseball player, was born on this day in Philadelphia, PA. Campanella joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1948 as one of the first Blacks to integrate the major leagues. He was the top National League catcher of his day, but his stellar career was cut short by an automobile accident that left him partially paralyzed. The accident transformed Campanella from sports hero into a universal symbol of hope and courage as he became an inspiration to and spokesman for the

handicapped. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1969. He died June 26, 1993, in Woodland Hills, CA, from a heart attack.

November 20, 1940 —



◀ **Hattie McDaniel**, actress, received an Academy Award for her supporting role in *Gone With the Wind* on this day. She was the first Black to win this coveted honor. Ms. McDaniel, who was also a radio and television star, was born in Wichita, KS, on June 10, 1895. She died on Oct. 26, 1952.

November 23, 1897—

J. L. Love, inventor, patented the pencil sharpener on this day.

November 25, 1975—

Suriname, the smallest independent country in South America, gained independence from the Netherlands on this day.

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Ear Infections Are Common For Young Children

Most children will have at least one ear infection in the middle ear by the time they reach age 3, according to Dr. J. Thomas Roland Jr.

Ear infections need prompt medical attention because if left untreated, they may cause more serious health problems such as hearing loss or dizziness.

Symptoms of middle-ear infection include pain, fever and irritability. Dr. Roland of New York University School of Medicine says younger children may tug at their ears to alert parents of the pain.

The infections also can cause fluid to build up in the middle ear. If left untreated, the fluid build up may cause scarring and permanent adhe-

sions that block the conduction of sound.

To treat the infection, doctors recommend antibiotics. After the infection has cleared and there is no fluid remaining in the middle ear, an audiogram or another test might be recommended to ensure that hearing or other functions have not been impaired by the infection.

If a child has middle-ear fluid within three months of a treatment, a combination of treatments, which may include implanting tubes to relieve fluid, prolonged use of antibiotics and removal of adenoid tissue near the Eustachian tube, could be recommended.

Young children suffer with mid-

dle-ear infections more than older kids because their Eustachian tubes have not grown to the shape that helps them to function properly. By

age 7, the tube should have formed into its mature state, and kids should not be as susceptible to chronic ear infections.

Blacks More Susceptible To Glaucoma; Annual Eye Checkups Essential

Thorough eye health and vision examinations on a regular basis are absolutely essential for Blacks as they are more susceptible to certain eye health problems than Whites, the American Optometric Association studies showed.

The association says studies revealed that Blacks are four to five times more likely than Whites to develop glaucoma, which is the lead-

ing cause of blindness in the United States. The association suggests that Blacks visit their optometrist for a thorough eye health and vision examination every year.

High blood pressure and diabetes, which are two general health problems that can contribute to sight-threatening eye conditions, are also more common among Blacks than others, says the association. Additionally, Blacks who are over the age of 40, have diabetes, are very nearsighted or have a family history of glaucoma have additional factors for glaucoma.



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Euclid;

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N. Canton;

N. Randall Park;

Strongsville

Dec. 1 – Dec. 14

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▲ **Heavenly Love:** Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Terrell wed at First Christian Missionary Baptist Church in Indianapolis, IN. The bride, the former Sheila Kaye Cornes, is a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University. She is a customer service representative for General Motors Acceptance Corporation. A graduate of Purdue University, the groom is an advanced manufacturing engineer with Electronic Data Systems, Inc. They honeymooned on Grand Cayman Island.



▲ **Lovely Couple:** Mr. and Mrs. Shelton E. Stark, II said "I do" at Longview Estate in Lee's Summit, MO. The bride, the former La' Tonya R. Harris, is a graduate of Central Missouri State University. She is a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy where she works as a public affairs officer. Her husband, who attended the University of Missouri-Kansas City, is a vice president and branch manager with a brokerage firm. They honeymooned in Jamaica.

► **Joyful Day:** Roy Young Spearman, Jr. and his bride, the former Yolanda Yvette Robinson, joined in holy matrimony at Mount Eagle Baptist Church in Chicago, IL. The bride is a graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. The groom, a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA, is a systems analyst with Eli Lilly and Company.





▲ **We Are One:** Dr. Richard R. Shelton, Jr. and the former Sharon D. Harris were married at the Trinity Baptist Church in Indianapolis, IN. A graduate of the University of Louisville and Indiana University, the bride is a global marketing plans associate for Eli Lilly and Company. The groom, a graduate of Washington University Medical School in St. Louis, is medical director for the Healthnet Medical Group. He is also a practicing physician in pediatrics.



▲ **Wedding In Paradise:** Nelson C. Anthony and his bride, Dr. Jamie Elizabeth Terry, joined in holy matrimony at Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston, TX. The bride, a graduate of Stanford University and Northwestern University School of Medicine, is a general surgeon in private practice. The groom, a graduate of Southern University, is a sales engineer with Idec Corporation. They honeymooned in Los Cabos, Mexico.



◀ **Fabulous Fifty:** Elder John H. Thrower and his wife, Grace Thrower, recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the Berkeley Senior Citizens Center in Berkeley, CA. Mrs. Grace Thrower is a retired daycare provider. Her husband of 50 fabulous years is a retired leader in the packing department at the Naval Supply Center. He is also pastor of Glorious Kingdom Primitive Baptist Church in Oakland, CA. The couple has been blessed with four sons, eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.

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Springfield, OH Clark State Performing Arts Center	Thurs., 11/21 7 pm
Toledo, OH Stranahan Theater at Masonic Complex	Fri., 11/22 8 pm
Akron, OH Civic Theatre	Sat., 11/23 8 pm
Cleveland, OH Cleveland Convention Center	Sun., 11/24 6 pm
Mansfield, OH Renaissance Theatre	Mon., 11/25 8 pm
Dayton, OH Dayton Convention Center	Fri., 11/29 8 pm
Indianapolis, IN Indiana Convention Center & RCA Dome	Sat., 11/30 8 pm
Louisville, KY Louisville Memorial Auditorium	Sun., 12/1 7 pm
Lexington, KY Haggin Auditorium/Transylvania University	Tues., 12/3 8 pm
Frankfort, KY Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center	Wed., 12/4 8 pm
Evansville, IN Vanderburgh Auditorium	Thurs., 12/5 8 pm
St. Louis, MO Scottish Rite Auditorium	Sat., 12/7 8 pm



Ticket prices include one year subscription to EBONY or EM or six months to JET.



NEWSMAKERS

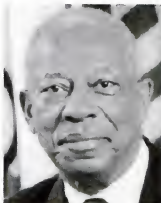
▲ **GUEST APPEARANCE:** Famed actor Bill Cosby, taping an episode of his new hit sitcom "Cosby", gives World Champion New York Yankees Manager Joe Torre (l) and pitcher David Cone a hard time during their guest appearance on the show as "Cosby" co-star Madeline Kahn smiles. In the episode Cosby is an overzealous security guard who makes Torre and Cone prove their identity in order to attend a Yankees celebration party in an upscale apartment building.

▼ **GENEROUS GIFT:** Dr. Charles Beady, president of the 87-year-old Piney Woods Country Life School in Piney Woods, MS, and staff social worker Verina White, are surrounded by students (clockwise, from l) Latoya James, Torrance Walker, Robert Lett, Veronica Ward and Sidney Graves, as they hold a copy of the \$43,000 check donated to the school from talk show sensation Oprah Winfrey. Winfrey said she donated the money to Piney Woods, one of the six historically Black boarding schools remaining in the country, because she was impressed with the school and "would like to help you be even more effective with the children that you educate." The donation allowed the school to pay salary and benefits to White.



Dr. Leroy Walker Presented Toastmaster's 1996 Golden Gavel Award

Dr. Leroy Walker, president of the United States Olympic Committee, was recently presented the Toastmaster's International 1996 Golden Gavel Award at its 65th annual conference in St. Louis, MO.



Dr. Leroy Walker

The award denotes excellence in communication and leadership abilities.

During the conference, 43 speakers presented educational, motivational and leadership tracks on various topics. About 16 of the speakers were Black, including Curtis S.



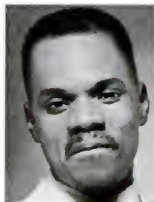
Curtis S. Woods

Woods, recipient of the 1996 Toastmaster's Area Governor of the Year Award, which is presented for outstanding leadership. Woods led a group of Toastmasters in a particular area to the degree of being distinguished within the organization. Woods, a five-year toastmaster from Little Rock, AR, is a district representative with Modern Women of America, a fraternal life insurance society.

Toastmasters International is an international speaking organization which was founded in 1924.

Condition Of Gospel Singer Kirk Franklin Improves

Gospel singer Kirk Franklin's condition has been upgraded to stable from serious for the injuries he suffered from an accidental fall during a concert in Memphis, TN.



Kirk Franklin

At JET press time, Franklin's publicist reported that he was moved from intensive care at the Memphis Regional Medical Center in Tennessee and remains under close observation.

The 26-year-old minister fell 10 feet into a darkened backstage orchestra pit at the North Hall Auditorium as he walked to his dressing room after introducing opening musical act Yolanda Adams and giving a blessing.

His group, Kirk Franklin and the Family, and Fred Hammond & R.F.C. were also participating in the national tour called "The Tour of Life."

Franklin has received tens of thousands of postcards and phone calls from well-wishers.

"The Tour of Life" has been postponed and will be rescheduled.

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▲ Famed actor Danny Glover and California State Senator Barbara Lee, masters of ceremonies at the tribute to Congressman Ronald Dellums, greet Sandré Swanson, district administrator for Congressman Dellums.

California Congressman Ronald Dellums Honored For 25 Years In Congress



California Congressman Ronald V. Dellums was recently honored for 25 years of congressional service during a gala tribute in Oakland.

Famed actor Danny Glover and California State Senator Barbara Lee served as the masters of ceremonies at "A Gala Evening Of A

◀ Mrs. Willa Dellums, mother of Congressman Dellums, and Linda Johnson Rice, president and COO, Johnson Publishing Company, congratulate Dellums on his 25th anniversary in Congress.



▲ *Congressman Dellums' daughter, Piper Dellums Ross, introduces her father at tribute.*

Lifetime" held at the Oakland Marriott City Center.

The tribute featured entertainment by Lenny Williams, former Tower of Power recording artist, and Oakland-based jazz ensemble Jules Broussard & His Group.

Dellums took his congressional seat in 1971 and is currently the ranking Democrat on the House National Security Committee, formerly known as the House Armed Services Com-

mittee. The congressman was the first Black to serve on the House Armed Services Committee and its first Black chairman. He is also the former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Congressman Dellums represents the 9th California district which includes Oakland and Berkeley.

Throughout his stellar political career, he has served his constituents as a peace activist, environmentalist, civil rights advocate and a labor-oriented Democrat.



► *Congressman Dellums thanks well-wishers for their 25 years of support.*



▲ **CHICAGO URBAN LEAGUE HOLDS 35TH ANNUAL GOLDEN FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** Chicago Urban League President and Chief Executive Officer James W. Compton (c) talks with veteran actor Brock Peters and John A. Edwardson (r), president and chief operating officer of United Airlines, during the Chicago Urban League's recent 35th Annual Golden Fellowship Dinner at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. With the aid of Edwardson, whose leadership helped to make the agency's dinner a success, it raised more than \$1 million to further the mission of helping minorities and the poor. The theme this year was "Celebrating 35 Years of Progress: 80 Years of Growth." Compton (below, 2nd, l) and Edwardson commend award-winning songstress Roberta Flack and comedian-improvisationist James Stephens III (l) on the wonderful entertainment they provided at the fellowship dinner.





▲ Leonard Sanders Sr. (c) is surrounded by his family (l-r), son Gerald, wife Ina, daughter Lindell Kelly and son-in-law Leon Kelly, after he won the May 6, 1995, Illinois Lottery Lotto drawing of a \$20 million jackpot. Since that time, Sanders has shared his sizable winnings with his town in Elkhville, IL.

Man Who Won \$20 Million In Illinois Lottery Shares Winnings With His Town

An Elkhville, IL, man who became \$20 million richer after he won the Illinois lottery with a quick pick number last year not only believes in counting his blessings but also sharing them with others (JET, July 3, 1995).

Leonard Sanders Sr. has been sharing his \$20 million with senior citizens and a church in Elkhville since becoming a millionaire. He spent more than \$50,000 turning an

empty building into the town gathering spot for senior citizens, and the 68-year-old retired coal miner has spent nearly \$100,000 to restore a 90-year-old Baptist church.

In a town where only 20 Blacks reside among 950 residents, Sanders has shared his good fortune in a place where he says the various races live in harmony.

"The Blacks and Whites here

have always gotten along," Sanders tells JET during a recent phone interview from Elkhaville Seniors Billiards Ltd., the senior citizens club he built. "This is one of the best towns in southern Illinois as far as the races getting along. These are some of the best people in the world, and I've been to a lot of places."

A former underground coal miner who retired eight years ago, Sanders first divided some of his \$20 million with his wife, Ina, two sons and two daughters.

"I was shocked a little when I won. I've been playing the lottery for 25 years. When you play it that long, you kind of expect and anticipate to win it. I felt that down the line I was going to win," reveals Sanders, who says that his family would also pitch in and play the lottery with him after he retired. The winning ticket was purchased in DuQuoin, north of Elkhaville.

Sanders says he then decided to share his lottery money with others. He observed that the residents had been good to him and his family and this was his way of showing his appreciation.

First Sanders restored the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and a nearby cemetery where most of the town's Blacks have ancestors buried.

"My wife has been going to that church since she was a child. She loves it. It's in the country and needed some remodeling and renovation badly so I decided to do that," ex-

plains Sanders. He attends the church with her, he says.

The new millionaire then bought an empty building and remodeled it. Sanders turned the building into a place of socialization for the town's senior citizens. Complete with two \$4,000 pool tables, exercise equipment, a cigarette smoke filter and free refreshments, the Elkhaville Seniors Billiards Ltd. has allowed residents the opportunity to enjoy convenient socialization as opposed to driving to DuQuoin—the nearest gathering spot which is six miles north of Elkhaville.

"Being that this is such a small town, it didn't have anywhere for seniors to socialize together and have fun. So I decided to buy a building and turn it into a senior citizens building," adds Sanders.

As for himself, he says he has remodeled his home but doesn't foresee purchasing a new one. Instead, the soft-spoken lottery winner would rather finish building a house in Champaign, IL, for his niece.

Sanders notes: "I'm older, and I want to take care of all of my family first. Then I can come later—if I live. But if I don't, I've enjoyed life."

The millionaire doesn't see his extraordinary deeds of generosity as a big deal. He says it was something he had to do.

"I just did what I thought I had to do. I really don't want a whole lot of praise for it. I just did what I had to do, and I did it," Sanders states.

the week's best photos



■ **KING OF POP'S GREETING:** Megastar Michael Jackson is greeted by Maori entertainer Sir Howard Morrison at the Auckland (New Zealand) Airport with a "hongi," a traditional Maori greeting of pressing noses. The king of pop was in New Zealand for a two-concert stop on his HIStory World Tour.

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meeting people,
reading and
dancing.

*Photo by
Phil Collins*





AP by Katsumi Kasahara

■ **THE DOCTOR IS IN:** Legendary NBA star Julius "Dr. J" Erving teaches a Japanese basketball fan the finer points of dribbling a basketball during a recent league-sponsored clinic in Tokyo. In addition to clinics, the New Jersey Nets and Orlando Magic played two official games on Japanese soil.



Malcolm Pinckney

■ **PREMIERE PARTY:** Famed filmmaker Spike Lee, along with his wife, Tonya, attends the premiere party for his latest project, *Get On The Bus*, at the Supper Club in New York. The film, released on the first anniversary of the Million Man March, chronicles a group of men's three-day journey by bus as they attempt to partake in the historic event.



▲ HISTORIC JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT: Judge Robert Mack Bell (r) of Baltimore recently made history when he was named Maryland's first Black chief judge of the Court of Appeals. At a recent celebration in honor of the event, Bell is congratulated by Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening (l), who made the historic judicial appointment, and Judge Robert C. Murphy (c), who preceded him. Judge Bell became the 23rd chief judge in the 220-year history of the Maryland Court of Appeals. The 53-year-old judge succeeds Judge Murphy, who held the post for 24 years before he reached the state's mandatory retirement age of 70.

Race Is Motive Behind Most Hate Crimes: FBI

Blacks were the target of most hate crimes in 1995, the FBI recently reported.

Race was the motivation in 4,831 of 7,947 reported hate crimes in 1995, the FBI revealed. Of those racially motivated instances, 61.9 percent, or 2,988 cases, were directed at Blacks. Whites were targets of 1,226 racially motivated hate crimes, or 25.4 percent.

Out of all reported hate crimes, there were 20 documented U.S. hate

crime murders in 1995, the FBI said.

The bureau said data from 1995 could not be compared with data from 1994 because the number of police agencies that voluntarily report hate crimes had grown substantially. For 1995, 9,500 police agencies in 45 states reported hate crimes.

Religious bias, with 1,277 incidents, was the second most frequent motivation for hate crimes, and Jews were the most frequent targets.



◀ Acting Indianapolis Police Chief Robert Allen answers questions from reporters after he announced that disciplinary actions were made by his office against White officers involved in a drunken melee.

Black Indianapolis Police Chief Reprimands White Officers For Drunken Attacks

Seven of the 17 White Indianapolis police officers were punished for their roles in the Aug. 27 drunken attacks on a Black motorist and a White man who came to his aid.

Acting Police Chief Robert Allen, who is Black, fired two officers, suspended two others and demoted the remaining three. Those demoted included two supervisors.

Ten officers were cleared of any wrongdoing related to the melee, in which former Police Chief Donald Christ resigned (JET, Sept. 30) in the midst of furor and protest from community activists.

"We are sending a message that we as a department do not condone these improprieties," said police Lt. William Myers in the USA Today. "We're going to learn from the mistakes made in this case."

Former Chief Christ had arranged a night out at a minor league baseball game, which later moved to a bar, for members of an elite tactical unit. Christ, who attended the game, was

not present at the bar.

According to witnesses, the off-duty officers exited the bar, made lewd and sexually explicit remarks to women and beat up Black motorist Jeffrey Gordon, 28, when he confronted them.

Richard Craig, 27, a White bystander, challenged the men and was beaten as well. Both men were arrested on charges, but they were later dropped.

However, a grand jury charged Gordon with fighting with police. Racial insults were hurled, witnesses said, and the FBI is investigating for possible civil rights violations.

Gordon was quoted as being disappointed with the disciplining of the officers.

"With the exception of (two officers), the rest of them are still eventually going to be right back out there on the streets, in uniform," Gordon said in the newspaper.

The Indianapolis Fraternal Order of Police said the incident was over-exaggerated.



▲ **JACKSON COALITION:** Yusef Jackson (2nd, r) is congratulated by his proud father, the Rev. Jesse Jackson (r), and his brothers, Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (2nd, l) and Jonathan Jackson, during a ceremony in which Yusef Jackson was sworn in to the Illinois Bar Association at McCormick Place in Chicago. Yusef Jackson received his juris doctorate degree from the University of Virginia last spring (JET, June 17).

Florida Man Who Accused Black Men Of Killing Girlfriend And Her Child Sentenced For Crime

The Florida White man who told police that three Black men beat him, his girlfriend and her daughter and torched their house was recently sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison plus 30 years.

Jeffrey Hebert, 39, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and arson in connection with the August 1995 incident. He was sentenced in Hillsborough Circuit Court in Tampa, FL.

He originally told police that

three young Black men beat him, his girlfriend, Patricia McDonald, 40, and her 12-year-old daughter, Breanne, and then set their house in Odessa, FL, on fire. Hebert said the men thought he was dead also, but he escaped and staggered into a neighbor's yard and told him the concocted story.

Police said Hebert's story was inconsistent and arrested him in December.

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in conditioners which penetrate deep into the hair shaft revealing healthy hair, full of body, and sheen, without heavy build-up.



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▲ *Mike Rozier, the 1983 Heisman Trophy recipient from the University of Nebraska, was shot several times while in his native Camden, NJ.*

NFL Star Mike Rozier, Former Heisman Trophy Winner, Shot

Former Houston Oilers star running back Mike Rozier, the 1983 Heisman Trophy winner from Nebraska, recently was shot on a street cor-

► *Rozier is hoisted by his Houston Oilers teammate Warren Moon during a 1985 playoff game. Now police search for an assailant who fired on and wounded him and an acquaintance.*

ner in Camden, NJ.

Rozier, 35, was in a trauma unit at Cooper Hospital-University Medical Center in Camden, NJ, while police searched for his assailant at JET press deadline.

Rozier, a Camden native, was shot twice in the stomach and once in the hand early Nov. 6 in the McGuire Gardens housing development, an area not too far from where Rozier lives.

Rozier and an acquaintance, Bart Merriel, told police they were drinking with a man identified only as "Lou." The man—for no apparent reason—pulled out a gun and began firing, they explained to police.

Reports note that Rozier was in satisfactory condition, but a hospital spokesperson declined to release additional information at the family's request.

"He's talking," said a police source who asked not to be identified. "Evidently, his condition is greatly improved."





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► *Evander Holyfield, the new World Boxing Association champion, celebrates his stunning upset of Mike Tyson.*



Evander Holyfield Shocks World With 11th-Round TKO Of Mike Tyson

Evander Holyfield sent shock waves throughout the world when he courageously upset the ultimate warrior, World Boxing Association (WBA) Champion Mike Tyson, with an 11th-round TKO.

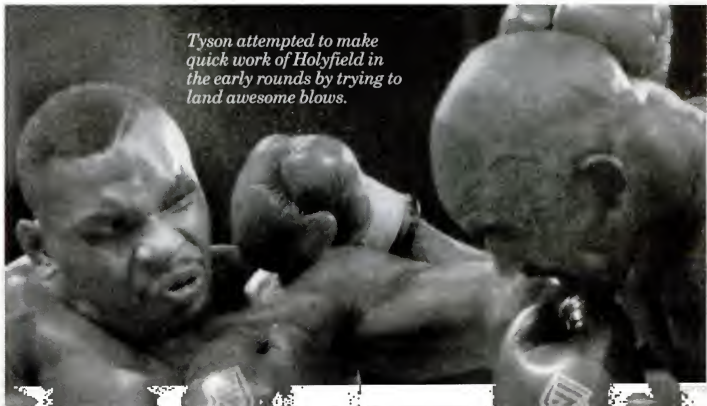
Holyfield joins the legendary Muhammad Ali as the only fighter to win the heavyweight title three times. He defeated James "Buster" Douglas in 1990, Riddick Bowe in a 1993

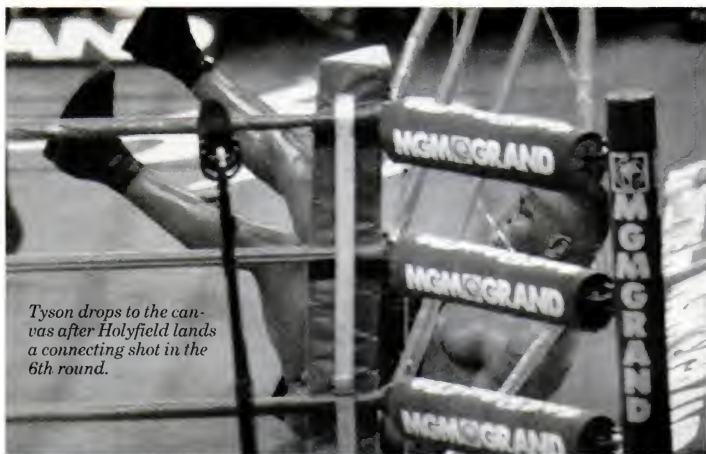
rematch and now Tyson.

Holyfield, who retired from boxing after he suffered a heart problem in 1994, recently came back to the ring and demonstrated to the capacity crowd at the MGM Grand Garden and Casino in Las Vegas that his heart was up to the task.

"Glory to God," Holyfield said. "With God on our side, things you choose to do, you can do. I fought com-

Tyson attempted to make quick work of Holyfield in the early rounds by trying to land awesome blows.





Tyson drops to the canvas after Holyfield lands a connecting shot in the 6th round.

petitively each round. I took it one round at a time. I was at my best," Holyfield said after he was hoisted on the shoulders of his managers when referee Mitch Halpern stopped the fight 37 seconds into the 11th round.

Holyfield had Tyson staggering to his corner as the bell sounded to end

the 10th round, and Holyfield continued the assault in the 11th.

"I really don't know what happened," Tyson said. "My eyes—he head-butted me, but I probably did the same to him. He fought a good fight. I'm OK, but my eyes hurt. I'm not going to make any excuses," Tyson said after the fight.



Tyson finds himself in the unfamiliar position of getting up from the canvas after he was knocked down by Holyfield.

Holyfield lands a right uppercut to Tyson's jaw during their battle in Las Vegas.



Although Holyfield dropped Tyson with a left hook in the 6th round, Tyson didn't seem visibly hurt until the 7th round when Holyfield knocked heads with him, which resulted in a cut above Tyson's eye.

Holyfield withstood some bone-crushing, head-ringing combination shots from Tyson in the 5th round that appeared to weaken him. But Holyfield caught a break when referee Halpern called a brief time-out to remove a piece of tape from Tyson's glove.

When champion Tyson, 30, entered the ring against challenger Holyfield, 34, he was determined to complete the unfinished business of disposing of Holyfield, whom he was

▼ *Referee Mitch Halpern calls the fight in the 11th round after Holyfield landed blow after blow, and Tyson failed to defend himself.*



SPORTS

scheduled to fight in 1991. The fight was canceled when Tyson was arrested and subsequently convicted of rape.

Holyfield improved his record to 33-3 and dispelled health doubts and comeback doubts.

Tyson's record fell to 45-2, and his defeat adds intrigue about the possibility of a much-anticipated big-money rematch.



▲ Holyfield celebrates with his wife, Dr. Janice Holyfield, a surgeon, in the dressing room after the fight.

CELEBRITIES

Home Of Late Ella Fitzgerald Sold For \$2.5 Million

The Beverly Hills home of the late jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald recently was sold for an estimated \$2.5 million, according to news reports.

The L.A. Times recently reported that Verna Harrah, widow of gaming casino king William Harrah, purchased the Mediterranean-style home that was built in 1930.



Ella Fitzgerald

The home where Ms. Fitzgerald lived for 20 years has 6,500 square feet of space, including three bedroom suites, two staff rooms, plus a guest house. The house also has a room near the pool known as "Ella's Pub" because it was where she held jam sessions with other jazz legends, the paper reported. She died last June at age 78.

Abdul-Jabbar Adds \$600,000 Expansion To Beverly Hills Home

Former NBA Legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar recently announced a 3,000-square foot expansion of his Beverly Hills area home that will cost about \$600,000.

The L.A. Times reported Jabbar is adding a gymnasium, a squash court and guest quarters to the home.

The addition is three stories tall.

The gym that's currently being built has an elaborate sound system and a juice bar. It also has a massage area with a sliding glass door. Jabbar, 49, purchased the home in 1992 for a reported \$2.5 million.



THE ASSOCIATE (Rated PG-13) Hollywood Pictures



Financial analyst Laurel Ayres is intelligent, sharp-witted and talented in matters of money. She seems to have all the right elements required for vaulting to the top of the Wall Street corporate ladder. But when Laurel fails to get a well-deserved promotion—given instead to her ethically challenged, devious colleague Frank—she finally realizes that she likely will never crack

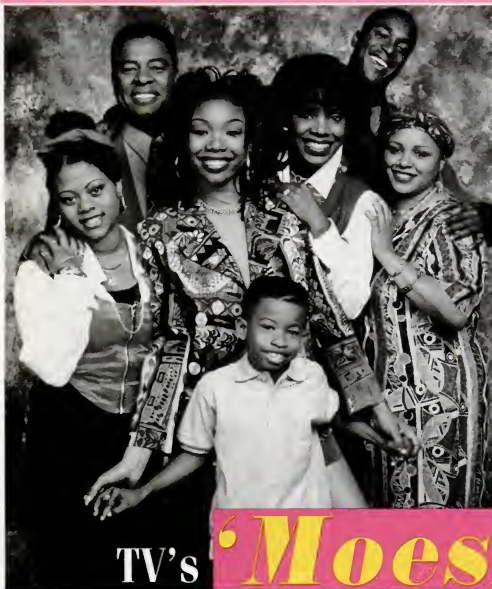
◀ Academy Award-winner Whoopi Goldberg stars as Laurel Ayres, a Wall Street whiz who, in order to get ahead, passes herself off as the associate of a powerful investment counselor in Hollywood Pictures' comedy *The Associate*.

the so-called “glass ceiling” and reach heights quickly climbed by her male counterparts. It is at this moment that Laurel's career and entire life take a completely unexpected turn. She devises an ingenious, but risky, plan to create the perception that she's formed a partnership with a powerful male financial whiz. Fabricating and donning the persona of “Robert S. Cutty,” a strutting, pony-tailed, bass-voiced male, Laurel skillfully walks a tightrope of illusion and success, until her underhanded rival, Frank, attempts to unmask Cutty and appropriate the disguise for his own personal gain. Starring Whoopi Goldberg and Tim Daly.

—SYLVIA P. FLANAGAN



◀ Whoopi Goldberg stars as Laurel Ayres and Tim Daly stars as Frank, an ethically challenged colleague who is on his way in the comedy *The Associate*.



◀ Brandy Norwood (c), who is *Moesha*, leads the talented cast of the top-rated, family-oriented show "Moesha", which stars (clockwise from left) Countess Vaughn, William Allen Young, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Lamont Bentley, Yvette Wilson and Marcus T. Paulk.

Television's ultra hip "Moesha" is the No. 1 sitcom on the United Paramount Network (UPN). The top-rated trendy show not only dishes out a good heap of comedy each week, but it also gives a positive view of Black family life.

Hot teen recording artist Brandy Norwood—simply known as Brandy by her

TV's **'Moesha'** Gives Positive View Of Black Family Life



◀ William Allen Young portrays Frank Mitchell, the overprotective, yet lovingly concerned head of the Mitchell clan. Sheryl Lee Ralph is Dee, *Moesha*'s new stepmother who often acts as the mediator between Frank and Moesha when they misunderstand each other.



◀ *The Mitchells often spend quality family time together. Shar Jackson (far, l.), who portrays Moesha's free-spirited friend Niecy, and Countess Vaughn (standing), who portrays Moesha's sassy, best-buddy Kim, joins the Mitchells (l-r) Moesha, Dee, Miles and Frank.*

millions of admiring fans—is the confident, level-headed Moesha Mitchell. The 16-year-old shares a home in Los Angeles' Leimert Park neighborhood with her family.

She lives with her car salesman father, Frank Mitchell, played by William Allen Young, who is over-protective, but lovingly concerned; her new stepmother, Dee, played by Sheryl Lee Ralph, who is strong in her beliefs while allowing herself enough time to stand back and analyze unexpected family challenges; and her little brother, Miles, played by Marcus T. Paulk, an aggressive, adorable 9-year-old who doesn't miss an opportunity to perfect his ability at whipping out smart comments.

After her mother's death three years ago, Moesha designated herself female head of the Mitchell household. But, when her father mar-

ries Dee, a teacher at Moesha's high school, the quick-witted, smart teen suddenly finds herself in a power struggle with her new stepmother over the role of "woman of the house."

The hit show views life from the eyes of a Black female teen in the '90s, without losing sight of reality, according to the show's main character, 17-year-old Brandy.

"I like it because it's fresh, it's now, it's new. It's not like a lot of TV shows you see because it's really real. [Other shows] don't say what kids are really like, really going through, and I think we do," she told the Star Tribune.

Moesha's lifelong next door neighbor, Hakeem Campbell, played by Lamont Bentley, who is like a second brother to her, and her sassy, boy-crazy, best-friend Kim Parker, played by Countess Vaughn, are



▲ When Frank Mitchell speaks, the family listens. The patriarch of the Mitchell household enlightens his family by sharing his views about a delicate family matter.

Moesha's shoulders to lean on when she wants friendly advice. She also finds comfort in venting her frustrations in her diary or by talking to Andell, played by comedian Yvette Wilson, the owner of The Den, the popular local spot where the teens go to hangout.

Brandy described her character in *USA Today* as, "real, like every other teen. She's responsible and listens to her dad. Her friends are wild, but she isn't. Most of the Black shows on TV now are so unreal. There's no moral. There is a moral on *'Moesha.'*"

This season Moesha has a new love interest, who is simply called Q, a street-smart New York rapper. Q is played by Fredro Starr, a rapper in real life and a member of the rap group Onyx. Moesha's new beau cares deeply about her and attempts to understand his new mate; however, he has a difficult time trying to

make sense out of Moesha's delay in telling her father about their relationship. Eventually, with his reassurance and support, Moesha finds the courage to tell her father that they are dating.

Ralph Farquhar, the show's executive producer and co-creator, believes it was important to create a show that not only delivers a positive message without being preachy but also leaves room for humor.

"I think certainly our collective goal was to do a family show featuring an African-American family, middle-class family, and do it with a great sense of humor but at the same time not shy away from the reality of what it is like to grow up in America 1996," reveals Farquhar, who created the show along with Sara V. Finney and Vida Spears, both co-executive producers on the show.

He adds, "Teenagers are aspiring to be adults. It's interesting to see

teenagers finding out who they are and how they interact with parents."

"Moesha" is also a show that the entire family can watch together and enjoy.

"I get a lot of calls from parents saying 'Thank you. Finally a show I can sit down and watch with my children,'" Farquhar once told JET.

The relationship between Moesha and her father shows that the two are very close. This is a quality Young enjoys most about his character.

"I think it's one of the—for me—one of the most wonderful dimensions of the show," observes Young. "He's very successful in his career, but he also loves his family very much."

As the headstrong new stepmother, Ralph readily admits that her character is far from perfect, yet she recognizes that Dee is often the welcomed mediator who manages to bridge the gap between her new husband and stepdaughter when they misunderstand each other.

"I think that she really tries to understand and remind Frank, 'Hey, you were a child once yourself, you

know'...Maybe she's a bit of an idealist, but she's also in a classroom, so she works with these kids all the time," cites Ralph.

Like Ralph, Young agrees that his character isn't perfect. In fact, he says at times that Frank finds himself in "a very clumsy situation" when he attempts to deal with his maturing daughter. Young says, "[Frank] doesn't always know what to do, what to say, but as the father he proceeds because he should know what to say, and invariably sticks his foot in his mouth. But there is a Dee there to save him most of the time.

"I'm simply a man who deals with everything that a man who has a family who is trying to succeed in life has to deal with," explains Young.

With positive family values laying a firm foundation, the sitcom "Moesha" is a classic example that morals, realism and humor are a first-class, winning combination.

► *Moesha and Dee have their differences, but they stand strong next to each other's points when they attempt to sway Frank's beliefs about certain issues.*





■ BLACKSTREET



■ LUTHER VANDROSS

1. ANOTHER LEVEL

Blackstreet (Interscope)

2. YOUR SECRET LOVE

Luther Vandross (Epic/LV)

3. KEITH SWEAT

Keith Sweat (Elektra)

4. SET IT OFF

Various Artists (Eastwest)

5. HOME AGAIN

New Edition (MCA)

6. LET'S GET THE MOOD RIGHT

Johnny Gill (Motown)

7. F.B.I.

The Dayton Family (Relativity)

8. PICTURE THIS

Do Or Die (Rap-A-Lot/Noo Trybe)

9. 112

112 (Bad Bay)

10. ONE IN A MILLION

Aaliyah (Blackground)

11. ATLIENS

Outkast (LaFace)

12. DEFINITION OF A BAND

Mint Condition (Perspective)

13. MISSION TO PLEASE

The Isley Brothers (T-Neck)

14. NEW WORLD ORDER

Curtis Mayfield (Warner Bros.)

15. REASONABLE DOUBT

Jay-Z (Freeze/Roc-A-Fella)

16. I'M HERE FOR YOU

Ann Nesby (Perspective)

17. SECRETS

Toni Braxton (LoFace)

18. GINUWINE...THE BACHELOR

Ginuwine (550 Music)

19. IT WAS WRITTEN

NAS (Columbia)

20. MR. SMITH

LL Cool J (Def Jam)

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Michael Bolton
Babyface
Halle Berry
Brandy
Toni Braxton
Jim Brown
Dick Clark
Bill Cosby
Ossie Davis
Four Tops
Whoopi Goldberg
Arsenio Hall
Whitney Houston

Gregory Hines
Jesse Jackson
Quincy Jones
Florence Griffith Joyner
Martin Luther King, III
Patti LaBelle
Meadowlark Lemon
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Mrs. Jackie Robinson
Smokey Robinson
Sinbad
Will Smith
Cicely Tyson
Luther Vandross
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SEARS

■ MINT CONDITION



■ KEITH SWEAT

1. WHAT KIND OF MAN WOULD I BE

Mint Condition (Perspective)

2. NOBODY

Keith Sweat Featuring Athena Cage (Elektra)

3. NO DIGGITY

Blackstreet Featuring Dr. Dre (Interscope)

4. YOUR SECRET LOVE

Luther Vandross (Epic/LV)

5. HOW DO U WANT IT

2Pac Featuring K-Ci and JoJo (Death Row)

6. LOUNGIN

LL Cool J (Def Jam)

7. LET'S GET THE MOOD RIGHT

Johnny Gill (Motown)

8. HIT ME OFF

New Edition (MCA)

9. BOW DOWN

Westside Connection (Lench Mob)

10. USE YOUR HEART

SWV (RCA)

11. PO PIMP

Do Or Die Featuring Twista (Rap-A-Lot/Noo Trybe)

12. LAST NIGHT

AZ Yet (LaFace)

13. PONY

Ginuwine (550 Music)

14. THIS IS FOR THE LOVER IN YOU

Babyface Featuring LL Cool J, Howard Hewett, Jody Watley, Jeffrey Daniels (Epic)

15. MISSING YOU

Brandy, Tamia, Gladys Knight & Chaka Khan (Eastwest)

16. ASCENSION

Maxwell (Columbia)

17. IF YOUR GIRL ONLY KNEW

Aaliyah (Blackground)

18. FLOATIN' ON YOUR LOVE

The Isley Brothers Featuring Angela Winbush (T-Neck)

19. FALLING

Montell Jordan (Def Jam)

20. UN-BREAK MY HEART

Toni Braxton (LaFace)



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television



'Fall Into Darkness'

Tatyana M. Ali and Jonathan Brandis star in this stylish thriller about a young piano virtuoso who falls in with a fast crowd and is framed for murder when the wealthy and wild leader of the group fakes her own death in *Fall Into Darkness*, (Monday, November 25 at 9 p.m., ET) on NBC. Others scheduled to appear this week include:

Blair Underwood on "High Incident," (Thursday, November 21 at 8 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Victoria Rowell on "Diagnosis Murder," (Thursday, November 21 at 8 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Reginald VelJohnson/JoMarie

Payton Noble/Bryton McClure/Rosetta LeNoire/Jaleel White/Darius McCrary/Kellie Shanygne Williams on "Family Matters," (Friday, November 22 at 8 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Meshach Taylor on "Dave's World," (Friday, November 22 at 8 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Shanesia Davis on "Early Edition," (Saturday, November 23 at 9 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Della Reese on "Touched By An Angel," (Sunday, November 24 at 8 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Tamala Jones/Cedrick Terrell/LaToya Howlett/Vicellous Reon Shannon on "Dangerous Minds," (Monday, November 25 at 8 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Bill Cosby/Phylicia Rashad on "Cosby," (Monday, November 25 at 8 p.m., ET) on CBS.

James McDaniel on "NYPD Blue," (Tuesday, November 26 at 10 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Denzel Washington in *The Pelican Brief*, (Wednesday, November 27 at 8 p.m., ET) on CBS.

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